

## February 19, 2008 - Slaughter Confirms 12 Planes for NFARS Two Years Ahead of Schedule

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday,  
February 19, 2008

Rep. Slaughter and Sen. Clinton Confirm 12 Total Planes for Niagara  
Air Base Two Years Ahead of Schedule

Twelve C-130H2 Planes to be  
Arriving by July 2008

Washington, DC &ndash; Representative  
Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28) and Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) today are  
pleased to announce that the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station (NFARS)  
will receive 12 planes in July of this year &ndash; two years  
ahead of schedule.

Congresswoman Slaughter called a meeting with  
the Air Force last week, where she received the news from

General Charles Stenner that NFARS will have all 12 C-130H2 aircraft by July of 2008. The 12 planes will be shared by the 914th Airlift Wing of the Air Force Reserve and the 107th Air Refueling Wing of the New York Air National Guard, and will be available to the Governor should there be a state of emergency.

“By receiving the new airplanes two years ahead of schedule, it not only makes certain that our service men and women have the necessary aircraft to succeed in their missions, but that the Base will continue to add to Western New York’s economic growth and vitality,” said Rep. Slaughter. “This announcement is a giant step forward in protecting the future success of the Base, and comes as a significant sign of recognition by the Air Force as to the importance of Niagara Falls.”

“This announcement is great news, and validation of the dedication and hard work of the local officials, community leaders, and area residents who were committed to keeping the Niagara Fall Air Reserve Station open in the face of the BRAC process,” said Senator Clinton. “The receipt of these new aircraft two years ahead of schedule signals that the Air Force recognizes the critical role the installation plays in our homeland security efforts, and its importance in the continued growth of the local economy. I am honored to have had the opportunity to stand with Western New York in keeping Niagara open, and I will continue to my efforts to ensure its long-term success.”

#### BACKGROUND:

In 2005, Senator Clinton, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Representative Slaughter played key roles in removing the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station from the list of recommended base closures put forth by the Department of Defense as part of the BRAC Commission.

- As a result, the BRAC Commission directed that the 107th Air Refueling Wing's eight KC-135's refueling tankers be removed from the Air Base. Meanwhile, the 914th Airlift Wing's eight C-130H3 planes would remain, leaving the Air Base with a total of eight planes. The eight KC-135 tankers are scheduled to be relocated from the Air Base by July.

- In October 2007, Air Force Chief of Staff T. Michael Moseley announced the transfer of the four C-130H2 planes to Niagara from a base in Nashville, Tennessee for purposes of the Association between the 914th Air Reserve Wing and 107th Air Guard Wing.

- With this announcement, the Air Force determined that it would be best for Niagara to have 12 total C-130H2 aircraft. Among other benefits, having all the same model aircraft will reduce training and maintenance costs. In order for this to take place, the Air Force would swap Niagara's eight C-130H3 aircraft with eight C-130H2 aircraft currently located at a base in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Rep. Slaughter and Sen. Clinton secured language in the Fiscal Year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act that requires the Secretary of the Air Force to develop a long-term plan for assets at Niagara by March 1, 2008. The plan will outline the number of C-130 planes to be available at the Air Base and will consider if Niagara can accommodate additional aircraft assets in future years.

Major General Charles Stenner, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Programs, along with other Air Force officials, briefed Rep. Slaughter on the upcoming report. This meeting took place on Thursday, February 14, 2008. During this meeting, General Stenner confirmed to Rep. Slaughter that Niagara will have all 12 C-130H2 aircraft by July 2008.

###